

can overcome. In addition to fully funding international programs to combat the virus, we can provide tax incentives through AGOA to leverage private-sector contributions to the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. The AGOA III Act would provide a tax deduction to U.S. firms operating in AGOA-eligible countries when they make a cash donation to the Global Fund.

As I speak with African entrepreneurs, civil society, and the African diplomatic corps, the enthusiasm about AGOA and sub-Saharan Africa's economic possibilities remind me of the excitement of 1960s. But unless all of us work together as we did before—Democrats, Republicans, civil society, and the governments of sub-Saharan Africa—to build a consensus about extending and enhancing AGOA, I fear that this enthusiasm will go the way of our '60s optimism, as genocide, apartheid, civil war, and famine swept over Africa. We have a rare opportunity to ensure that Africa continues to share our markets. We must not let this moment pass us by. I hope that when the Congress convenes next year, addressing U.S.-African trade will be at the top of Congress's agenda.

TRIBUTE TO ROBINSON HIGH
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL KEVIN
MC CARTHY

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Robinson High School Principal Kevin McCarthy, who tragically passed away this week at the age of 39. Kevin's dedication to excellence and passion for serving his students, faculty and Robinson High School family will be sorely missed.

After earning two masters degrees and a doctorate, Kevin chose to become a science teacher in 1989. In 1997, he came to Tampa to serve as the science department head at Blake High School.

Kevin's ambition, enthusiasm and record of success served him well in the Hillsborough County School District. He progressed from department head to assistant principal for student affairs at Wharton High School and assistant principal for curriculum at King High School before he became principal at Robinson.

Along the way, he touched the lives of countless students, faculty and parents and left his mark on the schools in which he served. At Robinson, with his love of science, he helped create the MacDill Aeronautical Academy, which gives students the chance to engage in hands-on aerospace training and offers internship opportunities at MacDill Air Force Base.

When gunshots at Rembrandt Garden apartments, adjacent to Robinson's campus, threatened the safety of students, Kevin spearheaded community meetings including local law enforcement and Tampa housing officials to address the problem. Just three months later, a plan was in place to tear down Rembrandt apartments to make way for a new, safer complex.

The Robinson family, however, will most likely remember Kevin's leadership in helping

the campus come to grips with the death of Lance Cpl. Andrew Aviles, a Robinson High School graduate who was killed in Iraq.

Kevin McCarthy was what every school district in America needs—a rising star who sets high expectations for students and faculty and has the talent to help them to meet those goals. All of us who got to know him and work with him were and continue to be inspired by his integrity, energy and intense focus on his students. Kevin was one-of-a-kind and will undoubtedly influence countless others to follow his example in serving the community in many ways.

On behalf of the Tampa Bay community, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to his family.

IN MEMORY OF PFC. JONATHAN
CHEATHAM

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Army Pfc. Jonathan Cheatham, of Camden, AR, who died on July 26, 2003, fighting for his country in Iraq. I am saddened by this tragedy. I wish to recognize his life and achievements.

Jonathan attended Camden Fairview High School where he played soccer and the trumpet in the band. Upon graduation in 2002, Jonathan immediately entered the military. Jonathan served in the 489th Engineer Battalion of U.S. Army Reserve.

Jonathan gave his life to serve our country and will forever be remembered as a hero, a terrific son, and a courageous brother. My deepest condolences go out to his mother, Barbara Porchia, his sister, Portia Cheatham, family, friends, and those in his hometown of Camden whose lives he touched. I am sure Jonathan was proud of his service to the U. S. Army and to our country. I know he will be missed by his fellow soldiers, and all those who knew him and counted him as a friend. Furthermore, his fellow soldiers also know how much he contributed to the accomplishment of his unit's mission and to the U.S. Army. I will continue to keep Jonathan and his family in my thoughts and prayers.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF VIRGINIA DEMMLER

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of an outstanding Nevadan who dedicated her life to the highest ideals of civic life. Virginia Demmler, served the causes of justice and equality throughout her more than 20 years as a resident of Nevada, providing boundless energy, tireless work and inspiring leadership for Washoe County's Democratic Party and other civic organizations.

At the recent memorial service that celebrated Virginia's life, former United States Senator Richard Bryan described her as "the essence of a citizen activist, totally selfless

and committed." Virginia was recognized at "the heart of the Democratic Party of Washoe County," by Mary Connelly, State Director for United States Senator HARRY REID.

Virginia Demmler's service as Chairman of the County Party as its Executive Director set the standard for principled, effective activism. Washoe County's Democrats have appropriately marked their respect for Virginia's legacy by naming their annual Honor Roll Dinner the Virginia Demmler Honor Roll Dinner, where hundreds of her fellow citizens will attend in tribute to her.

As a young woman I became involved in politics and public service in Las Vegas, hundreds of miles from Reno. But Virginia reached out to me to provide guidance and vision that helped chart my course to achieve elected office and to serve all Nevadans with the passion and principle epitomized. I hope my service measures up to her example.

Virginia never shied away from helping a good cause. From Common Cause, to Planned Parenthood, to the American Civil Liberties Union, she served with distinction and was always there for people in need, to right a wrong, and to help build a better state.

Nevada is a better place, and her citizens enriched, because of the life of Virginia Demmler.

VETERAN TRIBUTE FOR STAFF
SERGEANT JOSEPH PENA

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions and sacrifices of Staff Sergeant Joseph Pena.

Staff Sergeant Pena served our country during the Korean War in the United States Air Force. He received the Korean Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. Staff Sergeant Pena is also a recipient of the Republic of Korea War Service Medal and the United Nations Service Medal.

At a time when we are once again at war, it is necessary to recognize the achievements of these national heroes. Due to their dedication, service, and sacrifice, they deserve our unwavering admiration and our unending gratitude.

Our country often takes for granted the freedoms and liberties our service men and women risk their lives to protect; yet by continuing to honor our veterans we preserve our nation's future by commemorating their past.

Thank you, Staff Sergeant Pena, for your service and sacrifice. You are a true hero.

TRIBUTE TO ZOELSMANN'S
BAKERY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable business in my district. Zoelsmann's Bakery has been serving the community of Pueblo, Colorado for

105 years, and I am pleased to call the attention of this body of Congress to the many contributions the bakery has made to the Pueblo community.

Otto Zoelsmann and his wife immigrated to the United States from Germany in the late 1800's. In 1898, the couple moved to Pueblo, where they opened a bakery. The Zoelsmann's were expert bakers and their delicacies were immediately popular throughout the Pueblo community. Horse drawn wagons, and later Ford Model T trucks, initially delivered the baked goods to Zoelsmann's loyal customers.

Aside from technological advancements, little about Zoelsmann's Bakery has changed over the years. The bakery is still dedicated to creating and selling the best baked goods possible. The current co-owners, the Petkoseks and the Paradisos, along with their staff, always serve their customers with a kind word and a friendly smile.

The Petkoseks and Paradisos took over the store after its longtime owner Chuck Martinelli retired. Chuck was a beloved figure in Pueblo and a master chef. Chuck handpicked his successors and, before retiring, he taught them his trade and entrusted them with his famous recipes. Chuck's memory lives on with Zoelsmann's Bakery as it goes about its business each day.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to Zoelsmann's Bakery. The bakery is entering its second century of dedicated service to the people of Colorado and I am pleased to call attention to Zoelsmann's contributions to the community of Pueblo.

H.R. 1813, THE TORTURE VICTIMS RELIEF REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2003

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1813, the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2003.

Torture is a horrible tool used in more than 150 countries to silence, intimidate and oppress people around the world. Many survivors of torture arrive in the United States every year. This legislation provides vital funding of support for victims of torture.

Mr. Speaker, more than 500,000 survivors of torture live in the United States today. A significant number of these survivors live in New York City. These survivors need vital support in terms of rehabilitation, medical care and psychological care. Fleeing from their persecutors, most often leaving their families behind, they arrive with no documentary evidence to prove their persecution. All they have are their scarred bodies and their stories of horror.

Once they arrive, the survivors are forced to face a culture and a system different from what they have known. They face numerous challenges in their effort to integrate into our society and become fully participating members. They have difficulty telling their stories to the immigration officers and even to their own attorneys because of the abuse they have endured by those in power in the past and thus are wary of authorities. Among the few they

can turn to are the torture treatment programs. These programs, armed with experience and dedication, are instrumental in helping survivors document their stories of torture, providing them with clinical care and psychosocial support, and enabling them to embark on a new life.

The life-saving work done by these torture treatment programs should be commended and appreciated by all Americans, for they open their doors, extend their hands, and offer shoulders to the most severely wounded new Americans. It is my pleasure today to commend the indispensable work of the Safe Horizon/Solace Program for Survivors of Torture and Refugee Trauma in my district. Solace is a program of Safe Horizon, which is the nation's leading victim assistance and advocacy organization. Solace is a decentralized, city-wide program, with its main offices in Jackson Heights, Queens. Since 1997, Solace has provided an array of services on behalf of torture survivors from over 70 different countries, including intensive case management, clinical, referral for medical and legal, social adjustment counseling, accompaniment, interpretation, information and referral, medical and psychological evaluations, expressive therapies such as visual and dramatic arts, dance, and somatic therapies such as massage, for survivors of torture seeking safe haven in the United States.

Furthermore, Solace has pioneered a community development approach that involves creating social healing interventions at the familial and communal levels, particularly important since torture seeks to destroy the fabric of communities, as much as it seeks to destroy individuals.

The Safe Horizon/Solace approach is also extremely cost effective, since Solace is the managing partner of the Metro Area Support for Survivors of Torture (MASST) Consortium, which includes Doctors of the World/USA, Refuge, Inc., and the International Institute of New Jersey as partners. This New York City and Northern New Jersey effort is all done on one grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement, and is the only such configuration in the United States. This past year, the MASST Consortium has reached thousands of people with a dizzying array of services.

The funds provided by the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2003 will enable torture treatment programs like Safe Horizon/Solace and its MASST partners to continue to provide the crucial services needed by those who have been subjected to cruel and inhuman treatment in their own countries.

Mr. Speaker, we may not have the opportunity to know when we meet the survivors of torture, to listen to first hand and understand their stories, or to appreciate the courage they exhibit in overcoming the consequences of the traumatic events they have experienced. But we do have the opportunity to assist them today. By supporting this important legislation, we can play an important part in providing care for this resilient group of people. We can give them hope for a better future. We will be instrumental in helping them break down the barriers that keep them from fully integrating into our society.

I strongly encourage all my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit this statement for the record and regret that I was unavoidably detained on my way to the floor on November 21, 2003 to vote on rollcall vote Number 636, on H.R. 3491, the National Museum of African American History and Culture Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

A BILL TO IMPROVE THE LIQUIDITY OF THE MARKET FOR INVESTMENTS IN LOW-INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT PROPERTIES

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today Representatives NANCY JOHNSON (R-CT), CHARLES RANGEL (D-NY) and RICHARD NEAL (D-MA) are joining me in introducing legislation to correct a problem that is impairing the liquidity of the market for investments in Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (housing credit) properties. The housing credit has been a remarkably successful incentive for encouraging investment in residential rental housing for low-income families. Under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code, a tax credit is available for investment in affordable housing. The credit is claimed annually over a period of ten years. Qualified residential rental projects must be rented to lower-income households at controlled rents and satisfy a number of other requirements throughout a prescribed compliance period (generally, 15 years from the first taxable year the credit is claimed).

Today, virtually all of the equity for housing credit investments comes from widely held corporations investing through housing credit funds. A significant number of corporate investors have transferred these fund interests in recent years, typically due to a change in their income tax status. An investor wishing to dispose of an interest in a Low-Income Housing Tax Credit ("housing credit") property during its 15-year compliance period is subject to a recapture of housing credits previously claimed unless a bond or U.S. Treasury securities are posted to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The amount of the bond to be posted is based on the amount of housing credits claimed and the duration remaining in the compliance period. The purpose of the bond is to guarantee to the IRS that it can collect the appropriate recapture amount in the event that the property is no longer in compliance with the requirements of the housing credit program.

At the time the housing credit program was enacted in 1986, the drafters of the statute were concerned that owners would claim the benefits of the tax credits and then avoid the continuing compliance requirements by transferring the credits to a straw party with minimal assets that the IRS could go after to collect recapture liability. This was a potential